

I CLAIM:

1. A shoelace fastener for a shoe, the shoe including a shoe body with a pair of eyelet tabs, and a shoelace strung on the eyelet tabs and having a pair of distal
5 lace segments, said shoelace fastener comprising:

first and second fastener bodies disposed side by side in a first direction, each of said first and second fastener bodies being formed with a through hole that has a hole axis transverse to the first direction, each
10 of said first and second fastener bodies further having inner and outer frame portions respectively proximate to and distal from the other of said first and second fastener bodies;

a pivot axle extending in a second direction transverse to the first direction and the hole axes,
15 and pivotally interconnecting said inner frame portions of said first and second fastener bodies;

a pair of clamping pins, each of which is movably retained on a respective one of said first and second
20 fastener bodies, extends in the second direction, is movable along the first direction between said inner and outer frame portions of the respective one of said first and second fastener bodies, and partitions said through hole in the respective one of said first and
25 second fastener bodies into a lace entry side proximate to said inner frame portion, and a lace exit side proximate to said outer frame portion; and

a pull unit secured on and disposed externally of said first and second fastener bodies;

whereby each of the distal lace segments is extendable through said lace entry side of said through hole in a respective one of said first and second fastener bodies, over said clamping pin of the respective one of said first and second fastener bodies, and into said lace exit side of said through hole in the respective one of said first and second fastener bodies;

whereby tension applied by the eyelet tabs upon the shoelace forces said clamping pins to clamp the distal lace segments respectively against said outer frame portions of said first and second fastener bodies for maintaining a tightened state of the shoe; and

whereby a manual pulling force applied on said first and second fastener bodies through said pull unit results in relative pivoting movement between said first and second fastener bodies and in movement of at least one of said clamping pins toward said inner frame portion of the respective one of said first and second fastener bodies to permit sliding movement of at least one of the distal lace segments for loosening the shoe accordingly.

2. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each of said inner and outer frame portions extends in the second direction, said inner frame portion of each of said first and second fastener bodies being formed

with a pivot lug unit, said pivot axle extending through said pivot lug units of said inner frame portions of said first and second fastener bodies.

3. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 1, wherein
5 each of said first and second fastener bodies has top and bottom sides, said through holes being formed through said top and bottom sides of said first and second fastener bodies,

each of said first and second fastener bodies further
10 having a pair of side frame portions that extend in the first direction and that interconnect said inner and outer frame portions, each of said side frame portions being formed with a respective slot that extends in the first direction,

15 each of said clamping pins having opposite ends slidably retained in said slots in said side frame portions of the respective one of said first and second fastener bodies.

4. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 3, wherein
20 said outer frame portion of each of said first and second fastener bodies is formed with a lace notch that extends from said bottom side.

5. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said pull unit is an endless loop.

25 6. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said pull unit has parallel loop segments secured to opposite ends of said pivot axle, respectively.

7. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 6, further comprising a covering band retained on said first and second fastener bodies for concealing connection between said pull unit and said pivot axle.

5 8. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said pull unit is made of the same material as the shoelace.

9. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said pull unit is connected to said outer frame portions
10 of said first and second fastener bodies.

10. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said outer frame portion of each of said first and second fastener bodies is formed with a string hole parallel to the hole axis, said shoelace fastener further
15 comprising a pair of strings, each of which has a connecting end connected to said pull unit, extends through said string hole in said outer frame portion of a respective one of said first and second fastener bodies, and further has an anchoring end formed with
20 a knot that abuts against the respective one of said first and second fastener bodies.

11. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a fixing unit adapted for fixing one of the distal lace segments on the respective one of said
25 clamping pins.